Statement II

Major Importers of clothing from India 1982, 1983 *and* 1984

(Provisional)

(*Value in Rs. Crores*)

Country	1982	1983	1984
U.S.A.	138·49	225·88	291·46
E.E.C.	249·13	216·71	280·94
U.S.S.R.	117·14	73·27	105·70
Canada	16·22	21·46	43·51
Japan	18·33	14·33	23·65
Switzarland	17·90	20·33	17·69
Sweden	12·88	13·20	16·03
Others	63·48	54·95	71·12
TOTAL	633·57	640·13	850·10

(SOURCE: A.E.P.C.)

Storage Capacity of the STC

*385. SHRI LEONARD SOLOMAN SARING: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during June/July, 1984 the State Trading Corporation decided to cut down the storage capacity for imported edible oils;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there was depression in the international edible oil market at that time;

(c) whether in pursuance of its storage policy, the S.T.C. could not purchase/import/store edible oils in sufficient quantity during the depression period;

(d) whether it is a fact that three months thereafter the STC imported edible oils at higher prices prevailing in the international market thereby losing a huge amount in foreign exchange; and

(e) if the answer to parts (a) to (d) above be in the affirmative, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) International oil prices declined in July, 1984 and remained around that level till September, 1984 in most varieties of oil.

(c) to (e) STC purchased edible oil during July 1984 to September 1984, when the prices in most varieties of edible oils were lowest, as well as during earlier and subsequent months based on import requirements of the domestic market and no loss of foreign exchange was involved in these imports.

Racket in the Central Warehousing Corporation

*386. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report which appeared in the *Statesman* on the 29th

June, 1985 captioned "The House of Tricks", regarding the existence of a racket in the Central Warehousing Corporation; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to identify the racket functioning in league with the smugglers to remove the contraband goods by substituting them with local goods and also against those involved in stealing the items from consignments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Warehousing Corporation (C.W.C.—a Government of India undertaking under the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies, Department of Food) are the legally appointed custodian of imported goods stored in the C.W.C. godowns attached to the Import Cargo Complex of the Delhi Airport. The security of this godown is entrusted by the C.W.C. to the Ex-Servicemen Airlink Transport Service (E.A.T.S.) an organisation of the Ex-servicemen sponsored by the Director General, Resettlement.

The Customs authorities attached to the Delhi airport have conducted investigations in regard to certain specific cases of substitution/pilferage of imported goods from the C.W.C. godowns. As a result of the investigations, contraband goods valued at about Rs. one lakh were seized during April, 1985. The Customs authorities are keeping a close vigil for taking appropriate necessary action against such attempts at clandestine removal of imported goods from the godowns. The security arrangements of the C.W.C. godowns have been further tightened.

Export of Cotton by the Cotton Corporation of India

*392. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cotton Corporation of India at Guntur have recently received an order for the export of 4000 bales of special quality of cotton of 60 counts and 34 mm length through Kothak Company of Bombay;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the buyers have found that cotton of A and B grades of 40 counts and 28 mm length is being supplied for export which they have rejected and is lying at Bombay port resulting in a net loss of Rs. 1 crore to the Cotton Corporation of India; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take against the Branch Manager of the Cotton Corporation of India at Guntur for supplying inferior grades of Cotton?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) to (c) The Cotton Corporation of India had sold 6,000 bales of AP MUC-5 to M/s Textile Impex, a Polish Government organisation through M/s. Kothak and Company on 22nd February, 1985. The Corporation further sold 2100 bales of the same quality to the said buyers on 31st May, 1985. Against the initial quantity of 6,000 bales, the buyers after pre-shipment inspection finally approved 4389 bales, which have since been shipped. The remaining quantity lying in the godowns of the CCI at Bombay is being offered in export and in the domestic market. Against the second contract for 2100 bales, the buyers did not find the quality upto their satisfaction. These bales are being sold in the domestic market. There is, however, no loss to the Corporation as it has succeeded in realising much higher price in export than the procurement price.

Action Taken on the Recommendations of the Eighth Finance Commission

*393. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state what action Government have since taken on the recommendations and observations made by the Eighth Finance Commission as regards taxes and duties under Articles 268 and 269 of the Constitution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI):